

**Ms. Mary O' Connor
15 Yale Road
East Hartford, CT. 06108-1448**

I am the mother of a developmentally challenged son, his name is Neil. In Neil's senior year, 2001 at East Hartford High School, together with the school staff, our family decided to transition Neil to MARC, Inc. to help shape his future. To state it simply, it was indeed the very best decision we could have made.

The reason I say this now, is because Neil is now gainfully employed at Bob's Discount Furniture in Manchester and he loves his job. For the past 3 years Neil has been sharing a 2 bedroom condo with 24 hour supported living services. He is now living independently of his family and doing just fine.

Our hopes and dreams for Neil could not have been realized were not for the professional guidance and attention provided by MARC, Inc., for Neil's personal medical needs.

Neil is an insulin dependent diabetic and has Celiac Disease (wheat and gluten allergies). MARC, Inc. sees to it that medical personal are on hand daily to dispense his medications. Neil's health needs are well taken care of, thanks to MARC.

I became acquainted with MARC 6 years ago. Walking into that building then and seeing the professionalism and the caring attitude of the personnel was heartwarming for me to see. I had a good feeling that Neil would be in good hands.

During the past 6 years, I have visited MARC almost on a weekly basis. I have seen the enormous growth of the number of developmentally disabled needing the services of MARC. The office space, the Senior Center and work areas, to put it mildly – are popping at the seams.

Another problem, where once I could drive in and park easily, now its almost impossible to find a spot. I drive around and wait for someone to pull out or double park.

Finally, I invite anyone or all of you to walk into MARC, Inc. and see for yourselves the incredible works being done in such a cramped facility. You will see for yourself the dire need for the construction of a new facility.

Please, you must pass this Bill S.B. #498.

**Mary A. O'Connor
Parent**